

ORIGINAL



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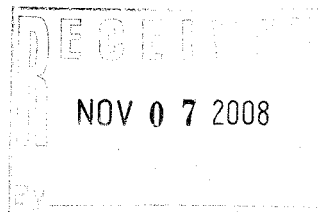
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AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

4 Nov 08

Mr. Mike Gleason
Chair, AZ Corporation Commission
Commissioner's Wing
1200 W. Washington
Phoenix AZ 85007-2996



E-01345A-08-0254

Subject: Drake Cement Plant – biomass utilization

Dear Chairman Gleason:

The Ponderosa Fire Advisory Council represents emergency response agencies and organizations in the greater Flagstaff area. While we do not deny the need for, and benefits of, solar, wind, and other renewable energy sources, we are dismayed with the Commission's recent decision to reject the Drake Cement Plant's request for *biomass*-based renewable energy credits. (They, along with APS, had proposed to use woody bio-mass fuel as a partial replacement for coal to satisfy the thermal needs at their new facility.)

Charged with public safety and faced every day with emergency events, we know that destructive wildfire is a major threat to our communities: we live with, respond to, and seek to address this issue every day. This is not only a threat to our area, but also much of the State as well. Removing this abundant renewable energy source from potential productive use directly harms our ability to protect citizens and communities throughout northern Arizona.

Our forests are seriously overcrowded. Excessive amounts of material, primarily small-diameter wood, must be removed and utilized in a constructive manner. The desire and intent by the Drake Cement Plant to utilize this material represented a very positive step in the direction of addressing this forest health issue and public safety issue. These are not federal issues, state issues, or local issues alone: they are our issues.

We ask that you help us, our forests, and our communities by taking proactive and positive steps regarding the inclusion of biomass utilization into the renewable energy issue. We have a tremendous opportunity before us, and it is our hope it is not squandered.

Respectfully,

Don Howard
Chair

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NOV -7 2008

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CC: Members – Flagstaff City Council
Coconino County Board of Supervisors

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